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(U) Amar Sthapit, Deputy Director of the Engineering Department at the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA), recently told Emboff that the NTA has drafted the country's first broadband policy and it is currently under public review. Sthapit said that the policy calls for the Government of Nepal to establish at least one broadband service facility in each of the 75 district headquarters, but does not cover the outlying areas of the districts. Broadband service is currently limited to about a dozen urban areas served by private providers. Although there is no deadline for the closure of public comment, Sthapit said the NTA, which is under the Ministry of Information and Communications, expects to implement the policy this fiscal year, which began July 16. He promised to provide Post with a copy of the plan once public comments are incorporated.
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